

May 2023: Environmental Impact: Scopes 1, 2 and 3

Thursday 18 May 2023 Shaw Contract showroom

Core Team:

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Collective Members:

Rebecca Poll, Grimshaw; Laura Wardrope, JLL; Asif Din, Perkins & Will;
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Jennie GreenWalker, MAA Architects; Dom Pegram, Salt & Pegram;
Jennifer Russell, Bureau Group; Matt Davies, The Furniture Practice;
Anja Schellenbauer, Conran and Partners; Fiona Edwards, JPA Workspaces;
Sarah Audsley, Knight Frank; Alison Grant: HLW; Simah Aslam, Abrdn;
Ruth Marsh, Sheppard Robson

Supporters: Shaw Contract; Steelcase; Sedus UK; Solus Ceramics; Milliken;
Orluna LED; Teknion; Workplace Insight.

Purpose:

A 'think tank' group committed to acting as a collective within the workplace design community to identify developments and 'best practice' relating to sustainability.

This report highlights some of the points raised during the discussion.

Scopes 1, 2 and 3 – the role of the workplace design sector

Discussions were held about the use of terms: Carbon Neutral, Net Zero, Zero Carbon
It was agreed that all claims should be aligned to SBTi (Science Based Targets Initiative).



The SBTi is a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Science-based targets provide companies with a clearly-defined path to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goals. “A company is only considered to have reached net-zero when it has achieved its long-term science-based target and neutralized any residual emissions.”



“If you are committed to Net Zero then you must measure your impact.”

GHG Protocol:

“Scope 3 often represents the largest source of emissions for companies. It also presents the most significant opportunities to influence GHG (Greenhouse Gas) reductions and achieve a variety of GHG-related business objectives.”

“Scope 3 can represent over 90% of a company’s scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Scope 3 includes many of companies’ most significant impacts, such as emissions in the supply chain from producing the materials a company purchases (e.g. from outsourced manufacturing) and the emissions from the products the company makes and sells (e.g. emissions from cars produced and sold by automakers).”

Discussions were held regarding EU legislation, in particular CSRD. Whilst the UK has not currently adopted this legislation, it does impact on many client companies operating in Europe.

EU law requires all large companies and all listed companies (except listed micro-enterprises) to disclose information on what they see as the risks and opportunities arising from social and environmental issues, and on the impact of their activities on people and the environment.

On 23rd January 2023, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) came into force. This new directive modernises and strengthens the rules concerning the social and environmental information that companies have to report. A broader set of large companies, as well as listed SMEs, will now be required to report on sustainability – approximately 50 000 companies in total. The new rules will ensure that investors and other stakeholders have access to the information they need to assess investment risks arising from climate change and other sustainability issues. They will also create a culture of transparency about the impact of companies on people and the environment. Finally, reporting costs will be reduced for companies over the medium to long term by harmonising the information to be provided.

The first companies will have to apply the new rules for the first time in the 2024 financial year, for reports published in 2025.

The European Union has also been negotiating a draft Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CS3D), with discussions on a final law expected to begin by mid-2023. CSRD aims to improve ESG reporting while CS3D ensures that companies take responsibility for the impact of their activities on people and the planet.



PRODUCTS

“Many manufacturers are not even measuring Scope 1 and 2 – particularly smaller companies.”

“We should be asking the question of suppliers, not just about the products. Carbon reduction plans should accompany measurements.”

“It is accepted that many of our project specific carbon models are not accurate partly because carbon figures can vary so much – for example the boundaries of measurement and specification, such as ‘to the gate’ or without upholstery.”

Discussions were also held about lifecycle management. How can design teams contribute to total lifecycle management when generally they are just at the ‘front end’?

“We do insist on ‘end of life’ information to be included in O&M Manuals.”

“Some dealers are now taking responsibility for updating O&M manuals throughout the lifecycle but this often isn’t possible.”

“We need digital passporing to provide full traceability.”



A Women in Office Design Initiative

"It's not currently mandatory to label products at all."

"Some cheaper products still aren't supplied with any type of labelling such as manufacturer and date of manufacture."

PEOPLE

Discussions included comments about the fact that many companies are still primarily focussed on finance and compliance but this is changing.

"It is being recognised that people do want to work for organisations that map their own values."

OUTCOMES:

SD Magazine:

As part of its mission is to work collaboratively to share knowledge and 'best practice' to inspire and influence the workplace design sector, SDC has launched a digital publication. The ambition is to provide a platform for views, opinions, and projects within the office workplace sector.

SD Courses:

SDC will be launching the first of a series of online courses specifically designed for designers working within the workplace environment.

SDC Forum and Awards:

The first forum and awards was held on 25th April 2023 at Crypt on the Green, Clerkenwell. It was designed as an interactive event for workplace designers, manufacturers, and suppliers to share knowledge and learn about efforts towards greater sustainability. It is planned to host this again in 2024 and possibly a smaller event in the Autumn.

FOOTNOTE:

The Sustainable Design Collective meets every two months. Each meeting addresses different initiatives designed to tackle the impact on our environment.

A summary document will be published after each meeting which is hosted on the Sustainable Design Collective's web site – an example of knowledge sharing.

We welcome comment and contributions from the office design sector.

www.woduk.com/sdc